THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Various options are being explored, before any conclusion is reached.

Labourers working under contractors in railways

911. SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labourers working under contractors in different sectors of Railways;

(b) whether these contractors have labour licences; and

(c) whether these labourers get minimum wages and covered under social security schemes of Ministry of Labour, *viz.* P.F., Gratuity, E.S.I, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Tender Conditions and General Conditions of contract stipulate that a contractor shall comply with the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970 / Rules 1971 as amended from time to time. The contract labour are paid the minimum wages as per notifications issued by the Central / State Governments under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and are also covered under social security schemes of Ministry of Labour as per extant Acts.

Construction of new rail lines in Gujarat

912. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:

SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has submitted a proposal in February, 2008 for construction of 10 new railway lines spread over various sectors of the State and also providing required funds for the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) As per available records, no such proposal has been received from State Government of Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Gauge conversion of Bhiladi-Samdari rail line

913. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI:
SHRI NATUJIHALAJI THAKOR:
SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: